

EXHIBIT # ~~224~~

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

Def. Doc. No. 1964

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

AFFIDAVIT

I, SHIDEHARA, Kijuro, being duly sworn in accordance with the procedure followed in our country, do hereby depose and say as follows:

1. My name is SHIDEHARA, Kijuro. My age is 76, having been born in 1872. My address is No. 1219, Okamoto-Michi, Setagaya, Tokyo.

2. At the time of the MUKDEN Incident of September 18th, 1931, I was the Foreign Minister, while General MINAMI was the War Minister, both being members of the Wakatsuki Cabinet.

On the morning of Sept. 19th, i.e., the next day after the outbreak of the Incident, an extraordinary Cabinet meeting was called. On that occasion, I reported the receipt of a telegram from the Japanese Consul-general in MUKDEN to the Foreign Office, stating that a little after 10 o'clock of the 18th the Chinese troops had blown up the South Manchurian Railway lines in the vicinity of Liutsku, MUKDEN, and clashed with our railway

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garrison. War Minister MINAMI then reported that he also had received a similar telegram from the Kwantung Army. As these telegraphic reports from the district concerned were very brief, the situation was too obscure for the Government to make any judgment at that time.

2. Cabinet meetings were held every day thereafter and the situation on the spot became gradually distinct. Hence, War Minister MINAMI declared that the central army authorities (the General Staff and the War Office) should make every possible effort to prevent the expansion of the Incident, although the action of the Kwantung Army originated from its proper aim of guarding the railway. All the members of the Cabinet, being in accord therewith, decided upon the Government policy of non-expansion, which was proclaimed at home and abroad on Sept. 24th.

3. The Wakatsuki Cabinet resigned on bloc on Dec. 10th, 1931. Up to that time, however, I did my best, always in cooperation with War Minister MINAMI, to prevent the aggravation of the Incident. It is, therefore, simply a mischievous rumour spread by persons, who do not know the true facts, to circulate such an unfounded story as the one purporting that I had come into loggerheads with War Minister MINAMI on account of our maintenance of opposite ideas at meetings of the Cabinet and that the friction

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between us two extended even to our personal emotions. Actually from that time to this day, I have been on intimate terms with General MINAMI.

OATH

I do hereby swear, in accordance with my conscience, to tell the whole truth, withholding nothing and adding nothing,

July 28th, 1931.

Deponent: SHIDEHARA, Kijuro.

I do hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the said deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in my presence on the same day and at the same place as above written.

Witness: KONDO, Giichi